

Amendments to the Claims:

1-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method of isolating from a sample a nucleic acid molecule encoding an inward rectifier, G-protein activated, potassium channel which comprises:

- (a) isolating nucleic acids from the sample;
- (b) contacting the isolated nucleic acids with a nucleic acid probe of at least 15 nucleotides ~~the molecule of claim 7,~~ under conditions permitting formation of a complex between the nucleic acid molecule encoding an inward rectifier, G-protein activated, potassium channel and ~~the molecule of claim 7~~ the nucleic acid probe, wherein the nucleic acid probe is capable of specifically hybridizing with the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof;
- (c) isolating the complex so formed; and
- (d) separating the nucleic acid molecule encoding an inward rectifier, G-protein activated, potassium channel from the complex, thereby isolating the nucleic acid molecule encoding an inward rectifier, G-protein activated, potassium channel.

14-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The A-method of claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid probe ~~the nucleic acid molecule of at least 15 nucleotides capable of specifically hybridizing with an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an inward rectifier, G-protein activated, mammalian, potassium KGA channel is labeled with a detectable marker~~ is labeled with a detectable marker.